

# A Deposit Solution



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

**IN THIS FAST PACED WORLD** it is not uncommon for young folks to start receiving credit card offers as soon as they graduate high school. Without a lot of financial maturity, some will become a victim of easy credit and find themselves with five or six credit cards that are maxed out. At that point, a bad credit rating is not far behind.

In a bad credit rating situation, the requirement for utility deposits will surely come up. I believe this is the reason prepaid cell phones have become popular, as well as leased vehicles. Lamar Electric is now offering Prepaid Electricity as an option. At this time, commercial accounts do not qualify. Most folks are like me and like the idea of receiving a bill in the mail each month for the electricity that has been consumed and will have no interest in the prepaid option. We are only offering this service as an option for members that request prepayment.

Here is how it works. The member buys some electricity (\$50 minimum the first time) and gets a text or email when the balance gets below \$20. A reminder is sent each day as long as the balance is under \$20. When the balance of electricity purchased goes to zero, the power is turned off.

More electricity can be easily purchased in amounts as low as \$25. Purchases can be made using our SmartHub App, logging onto our web page, calling our office phone and pressing 1 to select electronic payments or you can pay at our office in person. Paying electronically using a credit card (MasterCard or Visa), electronic check or debit card allows payments to be made any time of the day or night.

Most will likely add another \$25-\$50 when they get notice the balance is getting low, but reconnection is easy if you forget and get turned off. Within a few minutes after a payment is made (\$25 minimum) the power will be turned back on, after deducting a \$5 reconnect fee from the reconnection payment.

This payment to be reconnected can be made any time of the day or night and contacting someone at Lamar Electric is not needed. For your convenience, we have programed the computer to only turn off prepaid accounts around 1 pm, each day. You do not have to worry about being turned off in the middle of the night, even if the account balance becomes negative to keep the power on till 1 pm.

If a regular account is not paid before the past due date, a 5% penalty is added to the current bill. A lot of folks that struggle to make a monthly payment on their electric bill often pay late and pay 5% more. With Prepaid Electricity, there is never a late payment penalty added.

Prepaid Electricity is sold at exactly the same rate as regular billing. The exact same Power Cost Recovery Factor is added to each kWh and the \$12.50 monthly customer charge is broken down into a daily charge. Shortly after midnight, each night, our computer will download a meter reading to determine the amount of electricity used during the prior day. Our standard residential rate is applied to the prior days usage to determine how much \$ to deduct from the prepayment balance.

If you already have a deposit, we can apply your existing deposit as a prepayment of electricity. In some circumstances a past due balance can be paid out over time, by applying a percentage of future prepayments to the prior past due balance.

Recently a landlord told me the electricity for his rent house was in his name because the renter could not afford the deposit. If his renter was on Prepaid Electricity, no deposit would be needed. If you are struggling to make the monthly payment by the due date; Prepaid Electricity could be the answer and help you stop paying the late payment penalty. That is a savings of 5%. Give us a call to see if Prepaid Electricity is right for your situation.



# Do You “Like” Us?

BY KATIE MORRIS

**GREETINGS FROM YOUR** co-op communicator, Katie Morris! I am the face behind the Lamar Electric Facebook page. Updating our Facebook page regularly is one of the many things I do here at the co-op.



You may think that our Facebook page could not possibly be exciting enough for you to take the time to click that “Like” button, but you would be wrong in that assessment!

Not only am I always posting about what is going on at the co-op, but I also share energy-efficiency and electrical safety tips.

Our linemen see all kinds of things in their daily adventures. Occasionally they will snap a photo or share a story with me that could benefit you, our members. These stories and photos are usually about staying safe around electricity or keeping your home energy efficient, but we also have the random “haven’t seen that before” moments.

For example, one of our linemen took a photo of the pole below at right, and I posted it on Facebook. The shape of the pole is a result of an itchy hog that made it his favorite scratching post. This weakens the strength of the pole, giving it a greater potential to snap. Our linemen wanted to make sure our members let us know if they see any other poles that look like this one, so we can change them out.

Most importantly, I keep our Facebook page up to date when we have major outages. The minute I receive any information from our line superintendent, Scott Sansom, I post it on Facebook to keep our members in the loop.

St. Patrick’s Day 2016 was a perfect example: A major wind-storm caused more than 80 poles to break, resulting in widespread outages. During the outage, we reached more than 40,000 Facebook members with our updates. One of our posts on this outage was shared almost 500 times. This is what I love about social media! Once we have information, we share it with you, and you share it with your Facebook friends, and so on.

We have all kinds of exciting news and information available for members on our Facebook page. To stay informed and stay connected with us, “Like” us on Facebook!

If you aren’t sure how to find us on Facebook, just type in “Lamar Electric Cooperative” in the search bar at the top of your Facebook page. Our page name should automatically appear under the search bar. Select the page and click the thumbs-up symbol with the word “Like” next to it. If you are still unable to find our Facebook page, just visit [facebook.com/LamarElectricCoop](https://facebook.com/LamarElectricCoop), and that will take you directly there. If you’ve tried these things and you aren’t sure if you’ve liked our page or not, just give me a call at the office. I will be happy to assist you!

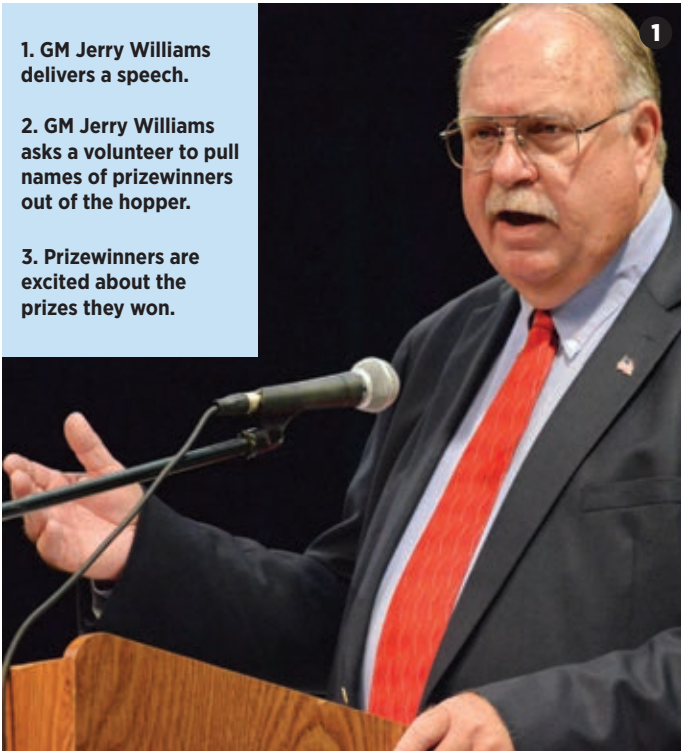




1. GM Jerry Williams delivers a speech.

2. GM Jerry Williams asks a volunteer to pull names of prizewinners out of the hopper.

3. Prizewinners are excited about the prizes they won.



# Lamar Electric Annual Meeting Highlights

**THE LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** Annual Membership Meeting was held Saturday, April 22, at Paris Junior High School in Paris.

Lamar Electric had three directors up for election, and all ran unopposed. In District 1, Mike Williams received 89 votes. In District 8, Matthew Albus received 126 votes. In District 9, Lyle Yoder received 116 votes. These directors were declared elected, and each will serve another three-year term. General Manager Jerry Williams updated the members on the financial reports and ongoing projects.

The names of six high school seniors were drawn out of the hopper to receive a \$1,000 scholarship each. There were 50 entries. The \$1,000 scholarships can be used at any university, college, junior college, technical school or other post-secondary educational institution of the students' choice.

Money for the scholarships comes from unclaimed deposits and unclaimed capital credits retirements from our members. Each member can still file a claim with the state of Texas to recover unclaimed checks, but the law allows Lamar Electric to use a portion of these funds meanwhile for scholarships.



Gus Collins



Marloes Tillema



Kayedon Oliver



Abigail Gooding



Codi Clark



Lindi Hamner



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**GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO**

Jerry D. Williams

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Ron E. Tippit, President, *Clarksville*
- Lyle Yoder, Vice President, *Pattonville*
- Mike Williams, Secretary-Treasurer, *Detroit*
- Matthew Albus, *Roxton*
- Allen Branch, *Sumner*
- James D. Floyd, *Annona*
- Jeremy D. Hamil, *Sumner*
- Harry R. Moore, *Clarksville*
- George M. Wood, *Blossom*

**Member Benefits**

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- E-Bill
- Visa and MasterCard accepted

**Your Local Pages**

This section of *Texas Co-op Power* is produced by LEC each month to provide you with information about current events, safety, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the local office.

WINNER	PRIZE	WINNER	PRIZE
Fay Rook	Rain Gauges	Steven Brown	Cooler
Rebecca Teubner	Power Block	Paul Payne	Shovel and Hoe
R. James Thomas	Garden Hose	Harlan Alexander	Blender
Paul M Bayer	Slow Cooker	Timothy Crawford	Iron
Michael R. Hill	Skilsaw	Richard Peace	Socket Wrench Set
Mike Mayfield	Hedge Trimmer	Eugene Adams	Camping Chair
Marion Hamill	Hand Blender	Debbie Dean	Tower Fan
Pacio Baptist Church	Shop Vac	Ida Nelson	Drill
Gary Butler	Extension Cord	Doug Winn	Yeti Rambler
Lionel Getz	Ammo Boxes	Joe Schroeder	Copper Cookware
Becky McClesky	Toaster	Boyd Hudgens	Leaf Blower
Willie Pace	Surge Protector	Monda Fults	Floor Lamp
Ruth Murray	Jigsaw	Patsy Rees	Fire Extinguisher
Patsy Jones	Shears and Lopper	Dennis Pearson	Brighton Necklace
Gordon Vandoover	Grinder	Barbara Brazeal	Shredder
Jonel E. Eads	Toaster Oven	Larry O. Calvin	Checkbook Wallet
Rebecca D. Stephens	Twin Work Light	Joe Goforth	Vacuum
Gus Harris	Hand Vacuum	Charles Beville	Microwave
Ronnie Hostetler	LED Lights	James Wade	55-Inch HDTV
W.E. "William" Hutchison	Coffee Maker		

Scholarship winners were Gus Collins of Cooper High School, son of J.B. Collins of Lake Creek; Marloes Tillema of Chisum High School, daughter of Jochum and Magretha Tillema of Paris; Kayedon Oliver of North Lamar High School, daughter of Monica Oliver of Brookston; Abigail Gooding of Prairiland High School, daughter of Buckley and Tina Gooding of Pattonville; Codi Clark of Paris High School, daughter of Jerry and Emily Clark of Honey Grove; and Lindi Hamner of Paris High School, daughter of Nikki Ragsdale and Steven Hamner of Reno.

The names of all members present at the meeting were placed in the hopper for prize drawings. Prizes were won by 39 members. James Wade of Reno won a 55-inch HDTV as the grand prizewinner.

**CONTACT US**

**CALL US**

**(903) 784-4303** local or  
**1-800-782-9010** toll-free

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